



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(HELENA) --- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 4.8%

(HELENA) --- Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly by 0.2% in October to 4.8%. Montana continues to be well below the national average of 6.5%. The national rate increased by 0.4% for October.

"Montana continues to out-perform the nation by adding payroll jobs and a smaller increase in the unemployment rate, but it is clear that the national economy is causing economic troubles here at home," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "We have rapid response teams in place working with the workers, their families, and the communities that have been affected to make sure they get their unemployment benefits and can transition into new jobs as soon as possible."

The Department of Labor and Industry is encouraging workers who have been laid off to file their unemployment claims online by logging onto www.ui4u.mt.gov. "Because this is the time of year when most seasonal employment ends and more Montanans are filing for unemployment insurance the Claims Processing Center's phone lines are extremely busy", says Commissioner Kelly

Seasonally-adjusted payroll employment increased by 900 jobs from September to October; the total number of Montanans who are working, including agricultural and self-employed workers, decreased by 0.1%, or 504 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The seasonally adjusted consumer price index (CPI-U) decreased by 1% for the month of October, the largest decrease in the CPI-U since the series began in 1947. Energy prices fell 8.6% in October, with food prices increasing 0.3%. The price levels for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, decreased by 0.1%.

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

The November 2008 Labor Situation Report will be released on Friday, December 19, 2008.

***** INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *****

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>

Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:
www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121